

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1 – 19 are currently pending in the application, with claims 1, 9 and 15 being independent. No claims are amended by the present Response. No new matter has been added.

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith citing three issued U.S. patents (6,538,206; 6,595,477; and 6,713,679) having disclosures similar to U.S. Patent No. 6,525,274 to Roberts cited herein. Each of these newly cited patents is distinguishable for the reasons explained below with regards to U.S. Patent No. 6,525,274 to Roberts.

Applicants have carefully considered the contents of the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the subject application in view of the explanations noted below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,525,274 to Roberts. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, since the Roberts patent clearly does not disclose, teach or render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 2.

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, a recloser assembly connected electrically in series to first and second switch assemblies and electrically in parallel to a bypass switch assembly, and a support assembly to which the recloser assembly and the first, second and bypass switch assemblies are mounted.

U.S. Patent No. 6,525,274 to Roberts (the Roberts '274 patent) discloses a rigidly connected base assembly 31 for an insulator assembly 11 to prevent movement of associated parts, thereby eliminating misalignment of the elements of the insulator assembly, as shown in FIG. 1. A recloser assembly 13 is shown connected electrically in series to first and second switch assemblies 15 and 17 and parallel to a bypass assembly 19, as shown in FIGS. 14 and 15. However, the Roberts '274 patents does not disclose mounting the recloser assembly 13 on the base assembly 31 with the switch assemblies 15, 17 and 19 also being mounted on the base assembly.

The Roberts '274 patent does not disclose first, second and bypass switch assemblies and the recloser assembly mounted to a support assembly. As noted in paragraph 4 of Applicants' patent application, existing recloser assemblies are mounted separately from the bypass switch assembly. While the Roberts '274 patent discloses a recloser assembly electrically connected to the first, second and bypass switch assemblies, there is no disclosure or suggestion of mounting the switch assemblies and the recloser assembly on one support assembly, as recited in independent claim 1. As shown in FIG. 1 of the Roberts '274 patent, the electrical conductor 171 extending from terminal pad 91 is connected to the recloser assembly 13, which clearly is not mounted on the base assembly 31, since the conductor 171 leads away from the base assembly. Since the Roberts '274 patent clearly does not disclose or suggest mounting the recloser assembly 13 on the base assembly 31 with the first, second and bypass switch assemblies, claims 1 – 8 are allowable over the Roberts '274 patent.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Since a support assembly to which the recloser assembly and the first, second and bypass switch assemblies are mounted is not disclosed, suggested or taught in the Roberts '274 patent, independent claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Roberts '274 patent.

Since the Roberts '274 patent does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the limitations in independent claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 2, being dependent upon claim 1, is also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, this dependent claim recites additional features further distinguishing it over the cited patents, such as a first mounting bracket securing the support assembly to a support of claim 2. Therefore, dependent claim 2 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited patents, particularly within the overall claimed combination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 9 – 19 are allowed.

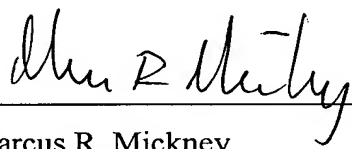
Application No. 10/650,090
Amendment Dated February 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

Applicant also notes with appreciation that objected to claims 3 - 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

* * *

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 - 19 are in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcus R. Mickney
Reg. No. 44,941

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 659-9076

Dated: FEB. 10, 2005